



# LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

25X1

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## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1

No. 83

(FOR STAFF USE)

Wednesday, May 3, 1950

### Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al Fayha', Al Ba'th, Barada,  
Al Balad, Al Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha',  
Al Islah, Al Suri, Al Jabal,

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### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

#### COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING - Communiqué-

Al Nasr: The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 6:30 p.m. yesterday, May 2, under the chairmanship of H.E. Khalid al-'Azam, The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. After discussing the subjects on the agenda the Council approved the following:

1- A Law authorizing the Ministry of Finance to guarantee a loan extended to the Agricultural Bank equal to the value of agricultural machinery delivered to the Bank for distribution to the farmers.

2- A Law authorizing the Ministry of Finance to guarantee a loan of 100,000 Syrian pounds for the Municipality of Banias.

3- A decree providing changes in the organization of the

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4- A decree providing regulations for examinations given for the appointment of secondary school teachers.

5- A decree providing regulations for the School of Medicine.

6- A decree authorizing the discharge of certain officials of the Ministries of Instruction, Interior, and Agriculture.

MARTYRS DAY:

Al Nasr: On Martyrs Day, May 6, 1950, all Government offices will be closed. A circular to this effect was sent to all the Muhafazats.

PREMIER'S VISITORS:

Al Nasr: H.E. the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs announced....

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announced that he could only receive visitors on Sundays. On other days the Premier will receive visitors only upon appointments made through his private secretary.

MOTIVES BEHIND HAWRANI'S RESIGNATION:

Al Ayyam: A prominent populist stated to our reporter that the motives which led Minister of Defense Akram al-Hawrani to resign was the Minister of Interior's toleration of the Evacuation Day celebrations in Aleppo. The Nationalist Party had publicly celebrated Evacuation Day despite the objection of the Defense Minister. Hawrani considered the action as deliberate and as indicating that there is "no harmony between the members of the Cabinet."

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN IN DAMASCUS:

Al 'Alam: Brigadier-General Wallace Graham, President Truman's personal physician arrived in Damascus by plane yesterday and proceeded immediately to Beirut where he interviewed the U.S. Minister in Lebanon. The President's doctor will return to Damascus to meet the US Minister here. He has visited Dhahran where he conferred with a number of American personalities. "It is quite obvious," the paper comments, "that the doctor's visit to Beirut, Damascus, and Dhahran is connected with certain specific political issues, including the Palestine question."

COMMUNISTS IN ALEPPO:

Al 'Alam: About 40 communists were arrested yesterday in Aleppo while attempting to organize a demonstration in the streets of the city. They were released later with the exception of 8 communists.

DR. CARLETON'S ARTICLES:

Barada today carried an article by a Circassian in which he attributed Dr. Carleton's statement that "Husni al-Za'im relied on Circassian minorities in the Army while the Arab elements were busy in the Palestinian front" to his being a member of a foreign nation whose government has been hampering the independence and liberty of Arab peoples. The writer pointed out that "such poisonous articles" will not effect the unity of all the inhabitants of Syria.

SUSPENSION...

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SUSPENSION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

Al Manar: In view of the strike launched by the teachers of secondary schools in protest against Decree no.90 which permits their transfer to elementary schools, the Government has suspended studies in all secondary shhools.

COLONEL AL-TALL IN DAMASCUS:

All papers: Colonel 'Abdullah Al-Tall arrived yesterday noon in Damascus. It is learned that he met with the liberal Jordanians in Damascus.

SUPPORT OF SIBA'I AND DAWALIBI:

Al Manar: The worthwhile speech delivered by Dr. Mustafa al-Siba'i in the Constituent Assembly last Saturday was welcomed by all circles in Homs. It reflected the opinion of every inhabitant and has become the subject of discussion among all groups. Following is the text of the cable we received from Nur-al-Din Shamsi Pasha, Abdullah Jandali, Nazir al-Urfali, Mu'in al-Sayyid Sulayman, Muhammad Nazif Safi, Akram Zirdi, Mamduh al-Tayyarah, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Misri, Muhammad Sha'yib al-Husayni, Tirkil al-Tirkawi, on behalf of the Homs students:

"The nation which is annoyed by the Anglo-American policy supports the speech delivered by Dr. Mustafa al-Siba'i in the Constituent Assembly. In the name of Homs students, we support the new tendency and urge its adoption so as to liberate ourselves from the hellish life we are enduring."

Following is the text of a cable sent by 400 students of the Syrian University: To the Chief of State, to the Prime Minister, and to the President of the Constituent Assembly:

"We students of the Syrian University fully and heartily support the speech delivered by Dr. Mustafa al-Siba'i at the Constituent Assembly which fully exposed the attempts of the democratic states to destroy the Arab nation.

"Every sincere Arab cries today: "To hell with English and American civilization." The authorities should understand the pain and anger of the people and should work firmly in the interest of the motherland and Arabism without paying attention to any pressure or interference."

AMERICAN LEGATION...

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AMERICAN LEGATION:

Al Nasr: USIS releases claim that the United States is a free country in which individuals, the press and even broadcasting stations are free to report any item or express any view. We would have been ready to believe such a claim, had not the American Legation hastened to submit a note to the Syrian Foreign Ministry protesting against the items published by the Syrian press.

As for the bomb incident at the American Legation, all that the Syrian Press reported was that the incident was artificial and that there was nothing to indicate that the bomb was thrown from outside the Legation. This report is true, and investigations have not as yet proven the contrary. The Syrian press has not fabricated this report, nor has it published a figment of its own imagination. Consequently, there is no reason why the American Legation should resent the publication of reports the falsehood of which has not been proven.

Furthermore, the Syrian press has reported the bomb incident in a more decent manner than certain American papers which have been hired by the Zionists to publish reports against the Arabs and the Arab cause. Syrian papers have commented on the American policy which inflicted the greatest disaster in history upon the Arabs in a manner which is far from being prejudiced. American papers, on the other hand, have been persistently publishing slanderous and libellous items against the Arabs and Arab problems. In their campaigns against the Arabs, American papers have been instigated by Zionist organizations.

It should also be noted that the Syrian press is free to express Syrian public opinion. If the American Legation considers the reports published by the Syrian press as an offence, in what terms can it describe the American policy which has expatriated one million Arab refugees. The items and articles which are published by the Syrian press do not adequately reflect the depth of the wound, or the extent of the injury, which the Arabs have received. Would that we had other means to express our feelings and views in a more effective manner. The American Legation protest will have no effect other than increasing the determination of the Syrian press to continue its campaign for putting the dots on the i's.

Alif Ba' published an article on the same subject under the heading "Sham Democracy". The article runs in part as follows:

"What right has the American Legation to ask the Foreign Ministry to put an end to the reports published by the Syrian press on the bomb incident at the Legation. It is not our intention to discuss whether press reports on this subject are true or false. Nevertheless, we should like to remind America that Mrs. Roosevelt once declared that Americans wished to see

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people in all the countries of the world enjoy complete freedom of thought, speech and writing.

"The Foreign Ministry's reply to the American protest is clear, cogent and justified. America can probably recall that this reply is similar to the State Department's reply to an Egyptian note protesting against a report published by 'Life', in which the American Government stated: "American papers are free to publish what they please, and the American Government cannot curtail this freedom.

"America, therefore, need not resent the items published by our papers whose attacks are by far less harmful than the attacks launched by American papers. We call upon America to permit us at least to imitate its democracy and to allow our papers to publish freely what they please."

Al Qabas published an article under the heading "A New Intervention" favoring the Syrian Government's reply to the American Legation protest. The paper remarks that this reply serves as a twofold lesson, because it would prevent any similar intervention in the future and would also refute the allegation that certain highly-placed American officials have requested the removal of Minister Dawalibi from the scene of Syrian politics as a result of his famous declaration proposing non-aggression pact with Russia.

The paper calls upon the Government to adopt a similar attitude towards the British official who has recently visited the Labor Union in Aleppo and listened to the complaints of workers against their own government.

#### NO LEBANESE PAPERS:

Al Balad: The Syrian Government has prohibited the entry of Lebanese newspapers and magazines into Syria with effect from today and until another notice.

### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

#### SYRO-LEBANESE RELATIONS

Alif Ba': A delegation representing Lebanese businessmen arrived Monday noon in Damascus and called on Premier 'Azm. Following the interview Premier 'Azm stated that he assured the delegation of Syria's good intentions towards Lebanon, and that Syria was prepared to conclude agreements with all Arab countries. A member of the delegation is quoted as having said that Lebanon was prepared to conclude agreements with all Arab countries.

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP83-00415R005200120011-8

ARAB AFFAIRS

A GREEK CATHOLIC BISHOP ADVOCATES PEACE WITH ISRAEL

Al Nasr: ANA reports the arrival in Damascus of Bishop George Hakim, the Greek Catholic Metropolitan of Haifa, Acre, and all Galilee. The Bishop who arrived on Sunday from the Jewish-occupied areas of Palestine expressed his desire that a peace agreement be concluded between the Arabs and the Jews for the following reasons:

1. the Bishop believes that duty calls upon the Arabs to rescue the Palestinians who are living under deplorable conditions imposed upon them by the Israeli oppression and pressure.
2. Israel promises to make compensation for the Arab property located under its occupation.
3. Israel promises to release Arab capital frozen in Palestine. Bishop Hakim maintains that since it is unlikely that the Arabs will resume hostilities with the Jews in order to liberate Palestine or any portion of it, the Arabs should agree with his views until such a time as it becomes possible to fight the second round of the battle and liberate Palestine from the Jews.

The Metropolitan left for Beirut to communicate his views to the Lebanese responsible authorities. ANA believes that the responsible Syrian authorities disagreed with the Bishop's views and expressed their refusal to conduct peace talks with Israel even if all the Arab states agree to do so.

DHAHRAN BASE

Alif Ba': Al-Misri published yesterday a message by its Washington correspondent confirming the report, published by this paper on April 27 that, in reply to the American Government's attempts to renew the lease of the Dhahran base, King Abd al-'Aziz al-Saud informed Mr. McGhee, the Assistant Secretary of State, that the Saudi-Arabian Kingdom would not have dealings with a state which supports Israel.

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